substantially smooth and spherical and have a mean size of between 1 and 10 μm, and a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic or diagnostic agent.

21. (new) The composition according to claim 20, wherein said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is the sole component of the microcapsule.

22. (new) The composition according to claim 20, wherein the particle size of said microcapsule is between 1 and 5 μm.

23. (new) The composition according to claim 20, wherein said microcapsules have a maximum interquartile range of 3 μm.

24. (new) The composition according to claim 20, wherein said microcapsules have a maximum interquartile range of 2 μm.

25. (new) The composition according to any of claims 20 to 23, which is sterile.

26. (new) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble material is an amino or polyamino acid.

27. (new) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble material is a protein, peptide or enzyme.

28. (new) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble material is a human protein or fragment or recombinant thereof.

29. (new) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble material is a protein with a NH, CO, OH or SH retained functional group.

30. (new) The composition according to claim 28, wherein said water-soluble material is a carbohydrate.--

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments to the claims before examination of the application. No new matter has been added, Applicants have simply amended the claims to direct them towards the utility of the microcapsules.

Support for claim 20 can be found in the specification on page 1 lines 7-10, page 5 lines 13-15 and 28-32, page 8 lines 25-28, and others. Claim 21 is supported by page 6 line 1-2 and